

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A damper, in particular for motor vehicles, comprising a cylinder [[(2)]] adapted to contain ~~containing~~ a hydraulic fluid, a main piston [[(1)]] actuated by a stem [[(3)]] defining in the cylinder a first chamber [[(2a)]] and a second chamber [[(2b)]], said second chamber containing the stem, a hydraulic fluid reservoir [[(6)]] and a valve [[(10)]] placed in the hydraulic fluid flow between the first chamber and the second chamber, said valve comprising a movable valve element [[(28)]] cooperating with a seat [[(30)]] and means designed to press the valve element onto its seat, ~~characterized in that it further comprises~~ filtering means being mounted [[(16)]] in parallel with the valve [[(10)]], adapted to generate a filtering control pressure acting on the valve element of the valve, the control pressure depending on the pressure differential at ~~the~~ an inlet and at the an outlet of the valve, said the filtering means comprising a balancing chamber divided into two parts by a movable piston, said movable piston being subjected to the action of a balancing spring means.

2. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that the filtering means comprise:~~
~~a balancing chamber (17) divided into two parts by a movable~~
~~piston (18) wherein,~~ the two parts of the balancing chamber
~~being~~ are respectively linked by pipes, on the one hand to the
inlet of the valve, itself linked to the first chamber of the
cylinder and on the other hand to the outlet of the valve,
itself linked to the second chamber of the cylinder and to the
reservoir, ~~the movable piston being subject to the action of a~~
~~balancing spring means (19),~~ and said filtering means further
comprises a filtering restriction [(21)] mounted in the pipe
linking one of the parts of the balancing chamber to the
valve; a filtering pipe [(24)] also linking said part of the
balancing chamber to the valve in order to apply the filtering
control pressure prevailing in said part of the balancing
chamber to the movable valve element of the valve.

3. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 2, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the movable valve
element [(28)] of the valve [(10)] is subject to a closing
force designed to press the valve element on its seat.

4. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 3, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the closing force is
generated by a spring.

5. (withdrawn, currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 3, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the closing force is generated by means of a hydraulic pressure differential created by a restriction ~~[(44)]~~ mounted upstream or downstream of the control valve ~~[(10)]~~.

6. (withdrawn, currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the movable valve element ~~[(28)]~~ of the valve ~~[(10)]~~ is subject to a force designed to open it at the high displacement speeds of the damper stem, this force being generated by a hydraulic pressure differential created by a restriction ~~[(50)]~~ mounted downstream or upstream of the control valve ~~[(10)]~~.

7. (currently amended) ~~The damper as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that~~

A damper, in particular for motor vehicles, comprising a cylinder containing a hydraulic fluid, a main piston actuated by a stem defining in the cylinder a first chamber and a second chamber, said second chamber containing the stem, a hydraulic fluid reservoir and a valve placed in the hydraulic fluid flow between the first chamber and the second chamber, said valve comprising a movable valve element cooperating with a seat and means designed to press the valve

element onto its seat, filtering means mounted in parallel with the valve, adapted to generate a filtering control pressure acting on the valve element of the valve, the control pressure depending on the pressure differential at an inlet and at an outlet of the valve, wherein,

the valve [(10)] comprises a control chamber [(25)] linked at the inlet, adjacent the seat of the movable valve element [(28)], to the first chamber of the cylinder, linked at the outlet to the second chamber of the cylinder and also receiving the filtering pressure, [[:]] ~~and that~~

the movable valve element comprises a valve element head [(29)] capable of cooperating with the seat, a valve element stem [(31)] and a valve element piston [(32)] integral with the stem at the opposite end from the valve element head, and

[[:]] a regulation cylinder [(33)] ~~being is~~ is housed inside the control chamber and defines ~~defining~~ a closed first ~~closed~~ regulation chamber [(33a)], inside which the valve element piston slides.

8. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 7, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the regulation cylinder defines a closed second ~~closed~~ regulation chamber [(33b)] containing the valve element stem.

9. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 8, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the valve element stem has a through passage $[(35)]$ connecting the seat of the valve element with one of the regulation chambers.

10. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim $[[2]]$ 7, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the filtering restriction $[(21)]$ is mounted in the pipe linking that part $[(17a)]$ of the balancing chamber $[(17)]$ linked to the inlet of the valve $[(10)]$ and to the first chamber of the cylinder and ~~that~~ the ~~balancing~~ filtering pipe $[(24)]$ is linked to the first regulation chamber $[(33a)]$.

11. (withdrawn, currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim $[[2]]$ 8, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the filtering restriction $[(21)]$ is mounted in the pipe linking that part $[(17b)]$ of the balancing chamber $[(17)]$ linked to the outlet of the valve $[(10)]$ and to the second chamber of the cylinder and ~~that~~ the balancing pipe $[(24)]$ is linked to the second regulation chamber $[(33b)]$.

12. (withdrawn, currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 9, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the through passage $[(35)]$ connects the seat of the valve element with the first regulation chamber $[(33a)]$ and ~~that~~ the regulation

cylinder defines a third and a fourth regulation chamber
[[33c, 33d]] containing the valve element stem, the valve
element comprising an auxiliary piston [[43]] separating
said third and fourth regulation chambers.

13. (withdrawn, currently amended) The damper as
claimed in claim 9, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the through
passage [[35]] connects the seat of the valve element with
the first regulation chamber and ~~that~~ the regulation cylinder
defines a third and a fourth regulation chamber [[33c, 33d]]
containing the valve element stem, a sleeve [[46]] forming
an auxiliary piston [[47]] being mounted so as to slide
along the stem of the valve element, said auxiliary piston
separating said third and fourth regulation chambers, the
sliding sleeve pressing on the valve element head through the
intermediary of a spring link [[49]].

14. (currently amended, withdrawn) The damper as
claimed in claim [[5]] 12, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ said
third and fourth regulation chambers [[33c, 33d]] are
subject respectively to the pressure downstream and upstream
of the restriction [[44]] mounted on the outlet pipe of the
valve.

15. (currently amended, withdrawn) The damper as claimed in claim 12, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the stem ~~[[31]]~~ comprises a shoulder ~~[[31a]]~~ in the third regulation chamber ~~[[33c]]~~.

16. (withdrawn, currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 15, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ said third and fourth regulation chambers ~~[[33c, 33d]]~~ are respectively subject to the pressure downstream of the restriction ~~[[21]]~~ mounted on the outlet pipe of the valve toward the second chamber of the cylinder and to the pressure downstream of a restriction mounted ~~[[50]]~~ on the outlet pipe of the valve toward the reservoir.

17. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 2, wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ the movable valve element ~~[[28]]~~ of the valve ~~[[10]]~~ is subject to a closing force designed to press the valve element on its seat.

18. (new) A damper, comprising:
a hydraulic cylinder;
a main piston actuated by a stem defining, in the cylinder, a first chamber and a second chamber, said second chamber containing the stem;

a hydraulic fluid reservoir and a valve placed in hydraulic fluid flow between the first chamber and the second chamber;

said valve comprising a movable valve element cooperating with a seat and means to press the valve element onto its seat; and

filter mounted in parallel with the valve, the filter adapted to generate a filtering control pressure acting on the valve element of the valve, the control pressure depending on the pressure differential at an inlet and at an outlet of the valve,

the filter comprising i) a balancing chamber divided into two parts by a movable piston, the two parts being respectively linked by pipes to the inlet of the valve and to the outlet of the valve, and ii) a filtering restriction mounted in the pipe linking one of the parts of the balancing chamber to the valve,

the movable piston being subject to the action of a balancing spring means,

the inlet of the valve linked to the first chamber of the cylinder, and

the outlet of the valve linked to the second chamber of the cylinder and to the reservoir.

19. (new) The damper of claim 18, further
comprising:

a filtering pipe linking said part of the balancing
chamber to the valve.